

REMARKS

The Final Office Action dated April 8, 2009 contained a final rejection of claims 1-25. The Applicants have amended claims 1, 10, 19 and 22. Claims 1-25 are in the case. Please consider the present amendment with the attached Request for Continued Examination (RCE) under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114. This amendment is in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.114. Reexamination and reconsideration of the application, as amended, are requested.

The Office Action rejected claims 1-25 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Reifel (Patent No. 7,013,288) in view of Kurz (Patent No. 6,584,290) and further in view of Barns-Slavin (Patent No. 5,995,950).

The Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection based on the amendments to the claims and the arguments below.

Specifically, the Applicant's independent claims 1, 10, 19 and 22 now include maintaining a print quantity associated with predetermined economical ship quantities of the recipient, providing the originator with a user interface to select specific images to be associated or disassociated with the predetermined economical ship quantities, automatically printing the images that are disassociated with the predetermined economical ship quantities and automatically delaying printing of images that are associated with the predetermined economical ship quantities until a total number of the images included in the collection of images breaches the print quantity.

In contrast, Reifel simply discloses managing the distribution of image prints (see Abstract of Reifel), Kurz et al. merely disclose a system that informs a user about consumable replacement components (see Summary of Kurz) and Barns-Slavin simply disclose determining discounted shipping charges for groups of parcels having the consignee (see Abstract of Barns-Slavin). Clearly, the combination of these cited references do not disclose, teach or suggest all of the features of the Applicant's independent claims.

Namely, although the Examiner argued that "Barns-Slavin teach determining a print quantity defined by a predetermined economical ship quantity," the Applicant's submit that nowhere in Barns-Slavin, in combination with Reifel and Kurz, is there a disclosure, teaching or suggestion of maintaining a print quantity associated with predetermined economical ship quantities of the recipient, providing the originator with a user interface to select specific images to be **associated or disassociated** with the predetermined economical ship quantities, **automatically printing the images that are disassociated** with the predetermined economical ship quantities **and** automatically **delaying** printing of images that are associated with the predetermined economical ship quantities **until** a total number of the images included in the collection of images breaches the print quantity of the Applicant's independent claims.

Consequently, since the Applicant's claimed elements are **not** disclosed, taught or suggested by the combined references, the combined references **cannot** render the claimed invention obvious, and consequently, the Applicants submit that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) should be withdrawn. *MPEP* 2143.

With regard to the dependent claims, since they depend from the above-argued respective independent claims, they are therefore patentable on the same basis. (*MPEP* § 2143.03).

Therefore, it is respectfully requested that all of the claims be allowed based on the amendments and arguments. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection of the claims and to pass this application to issue.

Additionally, the Applicants kindly **request** the Examiner to telephone the Applicants' attorney at **(818) 885-1575** with questions. Please note that all mail correspondence should continue to be directed to:

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Respectfully submitted,
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